STC. 10107

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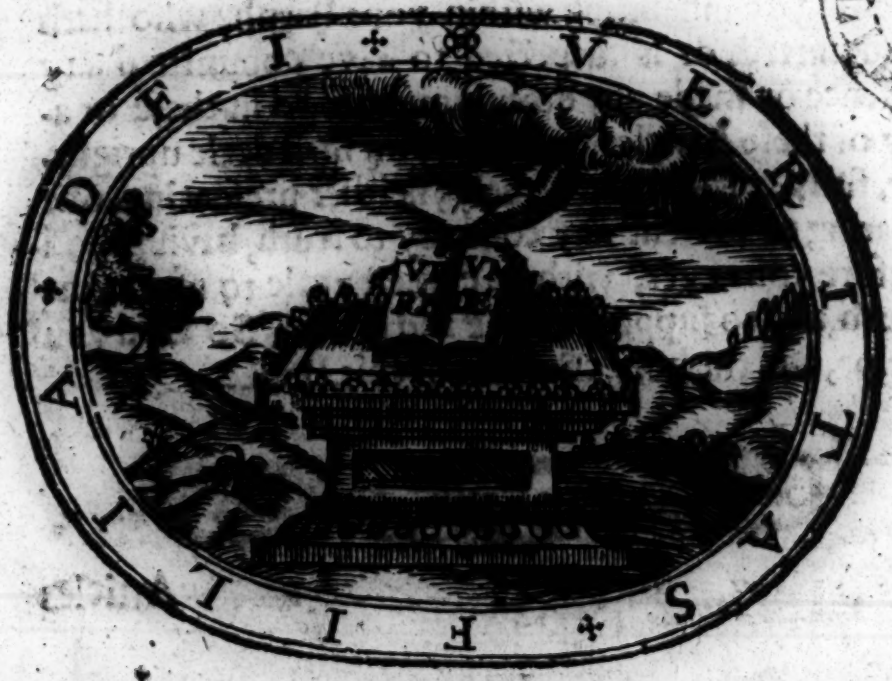
ARTICLES
TO BE ENQVIRED OF

In the ordinary Visitation of the *Right Worshipfull* LAWRENCE PAY, Doctor of Divinitie, Arch-Deacon of *Chichester*:

Holden, Anno Dom. 1638.



LONDON,
Printed by B. A. for *Richard Meighen*.
1638.

The forme of the Oath to be miniſtred to the *Church-wardens* and *Side-men*.

YOu ſhall ſweare that you, and every of you, ſhall duly conſider and diligently inquire of all and every of theſe Articles given you in charge, and that without affection, malice, favour, feare of diſpleaſure, or hope of gaine or reward, you ſhall preſent all and every ſuch perſon that now is, or of late was abiding or inhabiting within your Pariſh, who hath committed, or is ſuſpected to have committed any offence or made any default mentioned in theſe or any of theſe Articles, wherein you ſhall deale uprightly, fully, plainely and truely, neither preſenting, our ſparing to preſent any contrary to truth, having God before your eyes, with an earneſt zeale to maintaine truth, and to ſuppreſſe ſinne and error: So God you helpe, and the holy contents of this Booke.

Articles

Articles concerning the Church, the Ornaments and possessions thereof.

IN primis, have you in your Church or Chappell the Booke of Common Prayer, a Bible of the largest volume, and last translation, the Booke of Homilies, allowed by authority, a convenient and decent Communion Table, with a carpet of decent stuffe continually layd vpon the same at the time of Divine Service, a faire linnen cloth thereon at the time of administring the holy Communion, a faire Communion Cuppe and Flagon, a decent Font of stone, a conuenient seate for your Minister to reade service in, and besides that, a comely Pulpit set vp in a convenient place, with a decent cloth or cushion for the same, a comely large surplice, with all other ornaments necessarie for the celebration of Divine Service, and administration of the Sacraments?

2 Is your Communion Table decently placed at the vpper end of your Chancell, and doth it stand North and South, and is it railed in with a decent raile to keepe it from prophanation, according to an order made and appointed in the Metropolicall visitation of the most reverend Father in God, the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, his Grace 1635, by his Vicar Generall?

3 Are all seats in the Chancell which stood on the higher ground of the Chancell in equall height with the Communion table pulled downe and removed, according to the order and appointment of the said Vicar Generall in the said Visitation?

4 Have you a Register Book in Parchment for Christenings, Weddings and burials; and is the same kept in all points according to the Canons, and is a true transcript thereof brought yearly into the Lord Bishops Registry, within one Moneth after the 25, of March.

5 Have you in your Church or Chancell, set vp a Table, of the degrees wherein men are prohibited by Law to Marry?

Is your Church and Chappels with the Chancels thereof kept in good and sufficient reparations? are the Rookes thereof sufficiently covered to keepe out wet? are the glasse-windowes whole and unbroken, and the floores decently paved?

7 Is your Church-yard well fenced with Walles Railes or Pales, sufficient to keep out Swine and all manner of nastinesse. And hath any man incroched upon the ground of the Church-yard, or converted it to any prophane use?

8 Is your Parsonage or Vicarage house, with all the out houses, Stables, Barnes, and other buildings thereto belonging kept in sufficient Reparations?

9 Have you a strong Chest for almes for the poore with three locks and keyes: and another chest with three locks and keyes for the Register book to be safely kept in? and one key is kept by the minister, and the other by the Churchwardens severally.

10 Have there been kept in your Church, Chappell, or Church-yard, any playes, feasts, banquets, suppers, church-ales, drinkings, temporall courts or Leets, Lay Juries, Musters, or any other such prophane usage?

Concerning the Clergie.

1 Doth your Minister say Divine service distinctly and reverently upon Sundayes and Holidayes, twice a day, viz., both at Morning and Evening, at fit and usuall times? Doth he use the Book of common Prayer confirmed by authority, and observe all the Orders, Rites, and Ceremonies prescribed in the same, as well in reading publike Prayers, as also in administring the Sacraments, solemnization of Matrimony, visiting the sicke, burying the dead, and churching of women, in the same manner and forme as in the same booke of common Prayer is enjoyned, without any alteration, omission or adding any thing thereto; and doth he say divine Service upon the Eves of Sundayes and Holidayes?

2 Doth your Minister usually and constantly read the Letany upon Wednesdayes and Fridayes according to the 15. Canon.

3 Doth your Minister usually and constantly weare a Surplice in time of Divine Service, and administration of the Sacraments according to the 58. Canon.

4 Doth your Minister bid Holidayes and doth he give warning before

before hand to the Parishioners for the receiving of the holy Communion, according to the 22. Canon? And doth he administer the Communion so often, that every communicant may receive the same at the least thrice every yeare, whereof once at Easter, as by the booke of Common Prayer is appointed?

5 Doth your Minister administring the holy communion, deliver the bread and wine to any Communicant that doth not kneele? or doth he admit any one to the Communion being none of his Parish.

6 Hath your Minister buried within your Church Chappell, or Church-yard, any person dying Excommunicated; or any other to whom Christian buriall is denied by the constitutions of the Church, or Lawes of the Land?

7 Doth your Minister in the time of Divine Service vse due and lawly reverence, when the name of our Lord Jesus is mentioned, thereby giuing example and encouragement to his Parishioners to vse the like?

8 Is your Parson or Vicar resident vpon his benefice? if not, then by whome is the cure discharged?

9 Is your Curate (if you have any) licenced to serue the Cure, by lawfull authority from the Ordinary?

10 Is your Minister a Preacher licensed by lawfull authority or not? if he be, hauing no lawfull impediment doth he preach ordinarily in his Cure? if he be not, doth hee procure Sermons in his Cure once a moneth at the least to be preached by preachers lawfully licensed?

11 Hath your Minister, (in case he be not a Preacher) taken vpon him to teach and expound the Scriptures at his owne Cure or elsewhere?

12 Doth your Minister or Curate serue any more Cures then one? if he doth, expresse in your presentment the name of the other Cure which he doth serve, and how farre his two Cures are distant?

13 Doth your Minister vse to pray for the Kings Majestie, the Queene, the Prince, and the rest of the Royall Progenie, with addition of such stile and Titles, as are due to them? And doth he pray for all Arch-Bishops, Bishops, and other Ecclesiasticall Persons.

14 Doth your Minister Catechise the youth of his Parish diligently, according to the Order set down in the 59. cannon?

15 Doth your Minister in Rogation weeke yearely, walke the bounds of your Parish with the rest of your Parishioners, according to the ancient custome?

16 Hath your Minister admitted any excommunicate person into your Church, without a certificate of his Absolution first had from the Ordinary, or other competent Judge?

17 Doth your Minister vse such decency and comelinesse in his apparell, as becommeth his function and calling?

18 Doth your Minister vse such servile bodily labour, as is not fitting to the gravity of his profession?

19 Is your Minister any way defamed, or reputed to bee an Incontinent person, or a frequenter of Tavernes, Innes, or Ale-houses; or a common Drunkard, Gamester, or Swearer? Or is he any other wise offensiue and scandalous to his function or Ministry?

20 Doth your Minister read the whole Booke of Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiasticall, agreed vpon in the yeare 1603, and confirmed vnder the great Seale of England, in your Church or Chappell, once every yeare vpon some Sundaies or Holidayes in the afternoone, before Divine Service at two severall times according to the Injunction annexed to the same Booke of Canons?

Concerning Schoole-masters.

1 Is there any in your Parish who doth openly or privately take vpon him to teach and keepe Schole, not being lawfully enabled thereto by license from the Ordinary?

2 Doth your Schole-master (if you have any) instruct his Schollers in the grounds of Religion now established in the Church of England, and doth he take care that his Schollers doe orderly and duly frequent the Church?

Concerning Parish-Clearkes.

1 Have you a Parish Clearke aged twenty yeares at least,

a man of honeſt conuerſation and able to Reade and write? And are his wages duely payed vnto him according to the cuſtome of the Pariſh?

2 Hath your Pariſh Clarke taken vpon him to meddle with any thing aboue his Office, as Churching of women, Burying of the dead, or ſuch like?

Concerning Phyſitians and Chyrurgians.

1 Be there any in your Pariſh who practiſe Phyſicke or Chyrurgerie: If there be, preſent their names, and whether they be licenced by lawfull authority?

Concerning Matrimony and Baptiſme.

1 Be there any in your Pariſh who are married within the degrées of affinitie or Conſanguinity, by law prohibited?

2 Haue any in your Pariſh béene married out of Prohibited time without publiſhing of their Banes thrée ſeuerall Sundayes or Holidayes in time of Diuine Seruice before their Marriage, or without a lawfull Licence firſt obtained?

3 Haue any in your Pariſh in time prohibited béene married without a lawfull licence, notwithſtanding their banes haue béene thrée times asked according to Law.

4 Haue any in your Pariſh béene married at any other time then betweene the houres of 8. and 12. in the forenoone: or haue any béene married in any priuate houſe or place, and not in your Church or Chappell.

5 Are there any in your Pariſh being lawfully married, who liue apart one from another, without due ſeparation by Law?

6 Haue any children in your Pariſh dyed vnbaptized? how long remained they vnbaptized before they dyed? by whoſe default was it, that they were not baptized?

Concerning Church-wardens, and Side-men.

1 Were you choſen ſome day in Eaſter-weeke, with the conſent of the Miniſter and Pariſhioners according to the 89 Canon?

2 Haue

2 Haue the old Church-wardens at the end of their yeare or within a moneth after, giuen vp a true and iust Accompt of such moneyes and other things, which they haue receiued and disbursed for the vse of the church?

3 Hath there beene prouided against euery Communion a sufficient quantitie of fine white bread, and of good and wholsome Wine for the communicants who shall receiue? And is that Wine brought in a cleane sweet standing pot of pewter, or of some other purer mettall?

4 Haue you suffered any strange Preacher to preach in your church, before you haue seene his Licence to preach, by which it may appeare to you, that hee is lawfully authorized thereunto.

5 Doe you see the names of all Preachers who are strangers, and preach in your parish church to be noted in a booke for that purpose? And doth euery Preacher subscribe his name, and of whom he had his Licence.

6 Are any Legacies with-holden from your Church, giuen to it by the last Will and testament of any person deceased? By whom were such legacies giuen, and by whom are they with-holden?

7 Hath any man in your Parish threatned you or reuiled you for doing your duties? Or hath any gone about to tempt you to passe ouer or leaue vnpresented any offences committed contrary to these Articles giuen you in charge, which haue come to your knowledge? Or to perswade you that you may dispense with your Oathes, and otherwise vse Equiuocations, mentall reseruations, or double meanings in making your Presentments?

Concerning the Parishioners.

1 Doe any of your Parishioners being 16 yeares Old and vpward, absent themselues from your parish Church at Morning or Euening prayers vpon Sundayes or Holidaies? or being come to Church, doe they depart thence before Seruice be ended?

2 Doe all your parishioners behaue themselues reuerently, during the time of diuine seruice, doe they deuoutly kneele when

when the generall confession of sinnes, the tenne Commandements and all Prayers and Collects are read? Doe they stand vp when the Articles of the beleefe are read? And doe they vse due and lowly reuerence when the blessed Name of the Lord Iesus is vsed?

3 Doe any of your Parishioners keepe on their Hats in your Church or Chappell during the time of diuine Seruice, or any part thereof?

4 Haue any of your Parishioners disturbed your minister or congregation in time of diuine Seruice, or Sermon, or administration of the Sacraments?

5 Doe all your Parishioners being sixtéene yéeres old or vpward, receiue the holy Communion in your Church thrice euery yeare, whereof once at Easter? And doe they all (none excepted) deuoutly knéele at the receiuing thereof?

6 Doe any of your Parishioners (being admonished thereof, neglect or refuse to send their children, seruants, apprentices to the Minister to be catechised on Sundayes and Holidayes, at such time as are appointed? Doe any so sent refuse to come, or being come, refuse to be catechised?

7 What Popish Recusants haue you inhabiting or sojourning within your Parish? present their names and their qualities, and whether they be Excommunicate or not?

8 Are there any in your Parish who hold and frequent priuate conuenticles? Or who publikely or priuately speake against the Booke of Common prayer, or any thing therein contained, against any of the Articles of Religion of the Church of England, or against any of the Rites and ceremonies of the said Church?

9 Doe any of your Parishioners vsually goe to any other Churches to heare diuine Seruice or Sermons, or to receiue the holy Communion? Or doe any of them procure their children to be baptized in another Parish?

10 Are there any in your Parish, who will come to Church to heare the Sermon, but will not heare the publike Seruice appointed in the Booke of common prayer?

11 Doe any in your Parish stand excommunicate? how long haue they so stood? Haue any of them been denounced in

your Church in the time of Divine Service.

12 Doe any in your parish wittingly and usually converse and keepe company with excommunicate persons, after they have beene publikely denounced for such by the Minister?

13 Have any of your Parishioners continued tipling or drinking in any Inne, Ale-house or victualling-house within your parish on Sundayes or Holidayes, during the time of Divine Service or Sermon? Or have any strangers of other Parishes committed such offences within your Parish? you are to present the parties offending, and the parties in whose house the offence is committed?

14 Doe any strangers of other parishes resort to your Parish-Church or Chappell to Divine Service, Sermons, or to the holy Communion?

15 Hath any excommunicate person beene buried in your parish by your Minister, or any other? who were present at the said buriall?

16 Hath any person stricken or laid violent hands upon another in your Church or Church-yard? or hath any by words quarreled, chiden or brawled in your Church or Church-yard?

17 Have any in your parish exercised any Trade or Labour, bought or sold, kept open shoppe or ware-houses upon Sundayes or Holidayes, by themselves, or their Servants or Apprentices or other wise prophaned the said day, contrary to the Orders of the Church of England.

18 Is the fifth day of November kept holy, according to the Ordinance in that behalfe?

19 Have any in your parish suppressed the last will of the Dead; or administred the goods of the dead without lawfull authority? Are there any goods in your parish not administred or any Wills unproved?

20 Have any of your parishioners neglected or refused to accompany your Minister when hee walkes the Bounds of your parish; or to make provision of Cakes, Drinke, and such other things, as by the custome of your parish they are bound to doe at that time?

21 Have any in your parish harboured any woman, unlawfully begotten with child, and suffered her to depart away

before

before she hath beene punished for her offence,

22 Are there any in your parish to your knowledge, or by common fame or report, which have committed Incest, Adultery, or Fornication? Or that have attempted or sollicited the chastity of any woman; Or which are reputed to be common Drunkards, Blasphemers, Swearers, or Bauds? Are there any in your Parish vehemently suspected for any of these Crimes?

23 Lastly, if you know of any other faults and offences though not set downe or mentioned in these Articles, which are punishable by the Ecclesiasticall Lawes, you are to present the same by vertue of your Oathes.

There must bee a full and severall Answere made to every one of these Articles, else the presentment will bee returned backe againe, and the Churchwardens compelled to make a better.

FINIS.